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consists of applying a 5 per cent aqueous solution of copper sulphate, by means of a spray, directly to the algal growth on the basin walls after the water elevation in the basin is brought down below the algal line. After such application, a wire brush is used to scrub the walls.

With the use of this method every two months during warm weather the basin walls are kept comparatively free from algæ.

A rational program for the prevention of the pollution of our lakes and streams.—Paul Hansen, Consulting Engineer, Chicago, Ill.—*Illinois Medical Journal*, volume 38, No. 5, November, 1920, page 404.

A waterway must be regarded as both draining and watering the territory through which it flows. The treatment of polluted material entering a waterway will depend on whether the waterway is used for domestic purposes, fishing, bathing, or to remove industrial wastes. For domestic purposes, the water can be made practically safe by water purification. For bathing and fishing purposes, the quality of water should be similar to that of the best bathing beaches. Signs of pollution should not be evident to the senses. Where fishing is an important activity, the pollution should not be sufficient to harm the fish. For disposal of industrial wastes, waterways should provide sufficient clear water to prevent putrefactive decomposition.

The public does not object to waterway pollution to a limited degree. What really is wanted is clean waterways containing no pollution which will unduly jeopardize a reasonable use of our waterways by riparian owners or by the general public. It is a matter which can be effectively and satisfactorily handled by State departments of health, as has been proved in the State of Ohio and many other States. Technically speaking, the limitation of water pollution is best worked out when under the supervision of some expert authority operating under adaptable general laws which represent in broad terms the will of the people.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG INSURED WAGE EARNERS.

COMPARISONS, BY COLOR, OF THE DEATH RATES FOR THE THIRD QUARTERS AND THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1918, 1919, AND 1920.

Among the 13,000,000 (approximately) insured wage earners in the industrial department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. during the first nine months of 1920, the death rate was 10.2 per 1,000, or 9 per cent lower than the rate for the corresponding period of 1919. This suggests that, barring possible severe epidemics in the last quarter, 1920 will have an even better mortality rate than the record-breaking figure for 1919. The low death rate for tuberculosis is the outstanding feature in this mortality experience. As compared with the data for the same period in 1919, the mortality was much lower this year from influenza, pneumonia, and external causes, typhoid fever, diarrhea and enteritis, and Bright's disease.

The principal epidemic diseases of children showed higher death rates this year than last. The high figures for diphtheria during the summer indicate that we shall have, perhaps, a still more unfavorable mortality record for this disease during the colder weather if steps are not taken to protect susceptibles.

In a group of eight American cities the number of deaths from puerperal diseases per 1,000 births was 6.3 during the first six months of 1920, as compared with 5.5 in 1919. This is an increase of 15 per cent.

Death rates (annual basis) per 100,000 persons exposed—Third quarters of 1918, 1919, and 1920 compared, by color, for principal causes of death.

[Industrial Department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Cause of death.	Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed.					
	White.			Colored.		
	July-Sept., 1920.	July-Sept., 1919.	July-Sept., 1918.	July-Sept., 1920.	July-Sept., 1919.	July-Sept., 1918.
All causes of death	709.9	747.2	884.0	1,232.0	1,379.7	1,575.2
Typhoid fever	7.4	8.8	11.8	16.8	17.7	36.1
Measles	4.3	2.3	5.0	2.8	1.1	1.7
Scarlet fever	2.9	2.7	1.6	1.0	....	....
Whooping cough	5.5	3.5	7.2	6.8	4.6	16.9
Diphtheria and croup	13.7	14.6	13.9	3.5	4.6	6.4
Influenza	5.2	9.8	5.2	17.6	26.7	8.4
Tuberculosis—all forms	100.3	114.4	132.7	272.4	329.1	372.5
Tuberculosis of lungs	89.0	101.6	117.9	247.8	294.6	341.4
Tuberculous meningitis	6.0	7.0	8.1	5.8	9.5	9.6
Other forms of tuberculosis	5.3	5.8	6.6	18.8	25.0	21.5
Meningitis—total	5.0	5.5	7.7	3.8	3.3	7.6
Cerebrospinal meningitis	4.4	4.5	6.0	3.5	2.7	4.9
Cerebral hemorrhage, apoplexy	45.2	47.4	51.7	76.3	75.7	94.8
Organic diseases of heart	83.9	81.8	97.4	152.2	173.7	189.3
Total respiratory diseases	35.8	38.9	50.0	73.6	83.6	100.3
Bronchitis	3.2	4.3	4.9	8.3	8.7	9.0
Broncho-pneumonia	10.5	11.7	11.1	16.8	19.6	18.6
Pneumonia—lobar and undefined	15.8	17.2	27.8	36.2	42.5	56.7
Other diseases of respiratory system	6.2	5.7	6.2	12.3	12.8	16.0
Diarrhea and enteritis	25.2	27.8	41.4	23.6	28.0	41.9
Under 2 years	12.1	13.1	22.4	7.3	11.7	16.0
2 years and over	13.1	14.6	19.0	16.3	16.3	25.9
Nephritis and Bright's disease	58.5	62.0	71.1	125.0	132.8	155.6
Total puerperal state	18.6	13.2	13.8	25.1	23.7	23.0
Puerperal septicemia	7.7	4.7	4.9	11.8	12.3	9.0
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions	5.2	4.0	4.0	7.0	6.0	8.4
Other diseases of puerperal state	5.6	4.5	4.9	6.3	5.4	5.5
Total external causes [a]	80.1	89.5	136.2	103.7	122.0	132.3
Suicides	6.3	7.0	8.9	3.0	5.2	4.9
Homicides	3.8	3.7	3.6	28.9	36.8	30.0
Accidental and unspecified violence [b]	69.7	71.0	84.0	71.6	77.3	95.4
Accidental drowning	13.4	15.5	17.5	18.6	18.5	18.3
Automobile accidents	15.2	12.3	12.8	8.8	8.4	7.9
War deaths	.4	7.9	39.7	.3	2.7	2.0
All other and ill-defined causes of death	218.3	225.0	237.3	338.0	353.1	388.5

[a] Includes "war deaths."

[b] Excludes "war deaths."

Death rates (annual basis) per 100,000 persons exposed—First nine months of 1918, 1919, and 1920, compared, by color, for principal causes of death.

[Industrial Department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Cause of death.	Death rates per 100,000 persons exposed.					
	White.			Colored.		
	January-September, 1920.	January-September, 1919.	January-September, 1918.	January-September, 1920.	January-September, 1919.	January-September, 1918.
All causes of death	955.6	1,051.8	1,027.8	1,539.1	1,656.9	1,821.1
Typhoid fever	5.3	5.9	8.2	10.8	13.3	23.3
Measles	10.9	4.0	11.3	4.5	2.4	7.0
Scarlet fever	6.2	4.1	4.3	.7	.3	.7
Whooping cough	7.0	3.3	8.7	8.5	3.0	16.7
Diphtheria and croup	20.7	18.8	18.4	5.2	5.8	7.5
Influenza	63.3	120.3	12.3	101.9	152.6	31.2
Tuberculosis, all forms	121.6	138.0	160.6	297.6	329.4	405.6
Tuberculosis of lungs	109.2	124.4	144.1	272.3	298.8	369.4
Tuberculous meningitis	6.3	7.0	9.1	6.3	10.3	10.4
Other forms of tuberculosis	6.1	6.6	7.3	19.0	20.4	25.8
Meningitis, total	6.1	7.4	9.6	7.3	5.2	9.6
Cerebrospinal meningitis	5.2	5.9	6.3	6.2	4.7	6.1
Cerebral hemorrhage, apoplexy	56.7	54.9	59.4	86.2	87.4	95.2
Organic diseases of heart	112.1	107.7	123.3	175.4	180.8	210.6
Total respiratory diseases	131.9	146.2	131.9	216.6	235.1	277.5
Bronchitis	8.6	8.5	9.4	12.2	11.7	15.8
Broncho-pneumonia	38.6	39.4	30.2	46.3	49.1	47.1
Pneumonia, lobar and undefined	74.2	89.7	82.9	143.9	159.5	196.8
Other diseases of respiratory system	10.3	8.6	9.3	14.3	14.8	17.8
Diarrhea and enteritis	15.5	16.6	23.7	14.8	19.6	25.1
Under 2 years	7.1	7.8	12.1	4.8	6.5	8.9
2 years and over	8.3	8.8	11.6	10.0	13.1	16.3
Nephritis and Bright's disease	72.1	73.9	85.2	128.9	136.3	168.3
Total puerperal state	23.1	19.8	17.0	30.5	25.1	27.4
Puerperal septicemia	7.9	5.9	7.0	12.8	11.5	11.4
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions	4.8	4.5	4.3	6.9	5.0	7.8
Other diseases of puerperal state	10.3	9.4	5.7	10.8	8.7	8.2
Total external causes[a]	67.6	97.5	105.6	91.1	116.4	123.8
Suicides	6.1	7.5	7.7	3.7	5.0	5.3
Homicides	3.2	3.7	3.4	22.8	32.1	26.1
Accidental and unspecified violence[b]	57.7	63.2	74.0	64.3	69.2	90.1
Accidental drowning	7.2	(c)	(c)	9.7	(c)	(c)
Automobile accidents	10.3	(c)	(c)	5.8	(c)	(c)
War deaths	.6	23.1	20.4	.3	10.2	2.2
All other and ill-defined causes of death	235.6	233.4	248.3	358.9	344.3	391.7

[a] Includes war deaths.

[b] Excludes war deaths.

(c) Data unavailable.